

## CRUSOE'S ISLAND.

It Is Now Inhabited and Possesses a Little Town.

It is not generally known that Juan Fernandez, the island on which Alexander Selkirk, the Robinson Crusoe of romance, lived so many years—is at the present time inhabited. Two valleys, winding down from different directions, join a short distance back from the shore, and there now stands little village of small huts scattered round a long one-story building with a veranda running its whole length. In this house lives the man who rents the island from the Chilean Government, and the village is made up of a few German and Chilean families.

The tiny town is called San Juan Bautista, and the crater-like rim of the sea on which it is situated, and where Alexander Selkirk first landed, is now called Cumberland Bay. The island is rented for about £20 a year. The rent is paid partly in dried fish. Cat hatching and drying the many varieties of fish are raising cattle and vegetables wholly occupy the entire time of the settlers, and much of their little income is obtained from the cattle and vegetables sold to passing vessels.

At the back of the little town in the first high cliff, is a row of caves of remarkable appearance hewn into the sandstone. An unused path leads to them, and a short climb brings one to their dark mouths. About forty years ago the Chilean Government thought that a good way to get rid of its worst criminals would be to transport them to the island of Juan Fernandez. Here, under the direction of Chilean soldiers, these poor wretches were made to dig caves to live in. In 1894 they were taken back again, however, and the caves have since been slowly crumbling away.

The narrow ridge where Selkirk watched is now called "The Saddle," because at either end of it a rocky hummock rises like a pommel. One of these is now a large tablet with inscriptions commemorating Alexander Selkirk's long and lonely stay on the island. It was placed there in 1898 by the officers of the British ship Topaz. A small excursion steamer now runs from Valparaiso to Juan Fernandez island. The round trip is made in six days, and three of these may be spent on the island in fishing and visiting those lonely, but beautiful, spots which nearly 200 years ago were the haunts of Robinson Crusoe.

### Their Love for Music Is Fatal.

Seals are very fond of music, and for that reason they are easily caught. A member, says an old hunter, the first seal hunt I ever went on. Early one morning, I, in company with about a dozen others, set out in a row boat for a spot where the seals were said to be plentiful. The boatmen dipped their oars slowly in the water and sung in unison a weird, wild song in a peculiar undertone. To me this seemed to be a curious accompaniment to a seal hunt; but I was still more surprised when one of the men produced a flute and played on it a quaint, sympathetic air. The effect of the music was soon evident, as dozens of seals poked their heads up, some remaining basking on the water, while others clambered on the ledges of rock, charmed almost to unconsciousness by the music. Steering the boat to the shore, the musician all the while keeping up the plaintive air, one of the men jumped out. He carried with him a huge club and a long sharp knife. Noiselessly creeping to where some of the seals were lying on the rocks, listening intently to the music, he dealt one of them a terrible blow on the head with the club, stunning it, and then made short work of the poor animal with his knife. In the same manner he secured eleven fine seals before night.

### Depreciation of a Canal.

The Somersetshire coal canal was put up for sale recently at Tokenhouse Yard. The canal is about ten and one-half miles in length. The actual rents received from cottages and surplus lands amount to about £15 per annum. The canal was opened in 1801. It had a prosperous career down to 1872, at which time tolls were taken on 157,000 tons yearly. From 1874 to 1888 the tonnage was taken on a yearly average of about 24,000 tons, producing £1,547 in tolls, while the average yearly expenditure was £1,254. In 1889 considerable difficulties were caused by strikes, etc., and the collieries feeding the canal remained idle for some time. This state of things occurred more or less in subsequent years, and the company eventually went into liquidation. The original cost of the canal was about £200,000, and the auctioneer said that a bid of £20,000 would not be refused. A railway company was, he said, almost certain to acquire the property sooner or later, but it afforded opportunities in connection with speculative undertakings. The highest bid was only £3,000, and the auctioneer withdrew the property from sale.

### Seeking a Separation.

"Do you give gas here?" asked a wild-looking man who rushed into a dentist's office on Clark street yesterday morning. "We do," replied the dentist. "Does it put a fellow to sleep?" "It does." "Sound asleep, so you can't wake him up?" "Yes." "You could break his jaw or gouge out his eyes and he wouldn't feel it?" "He would know nothing of it." "How long does it make him stay asleep?" "The physical insensibility produced by inhaling the gas lasts a minute or probably a little less." "I guess that's long enough. Got it already for a fellow to take?" "Yes. Take a seat in this chair and show me your tooth." "Tooth nothing!" said the excited caller, beginning rapidly to remove his coat and vest. "I want you to remove a porous plaster off my back."

### Novel Exhibition.

Vienna will have a novel exhibition in the winter of 1895-'96, the arrangements for which have just been made. It is to be a collection of all objects of interest connected with the Congress of Vienna in 1814-'15, which redrew Europe after the fall of Napoleon. It will include portraits of the persons who took part in the Congress—Metternich, Talleyrand, Wellington, Castlereagh—and other distinguished men of the time; paintings of the chief occurrences during the session of the Congress, and reproductions of the fashions, uniforms, court dresses and furniture of the day.

## A WEIRD PLACE.

An Immense Area in the Ocean Which Is Neither Land Nor Water.

One of the curiosities of the Atlantic Ocean is the Sargasso Sea, a mass of floating seaweed several times larger than the area of Germany and lying west of the Azores. This marine rubbish heap, through which Columbus sailed to the new world, was a source of much perplexity to the great navigator. The immense mass resembles a meadow, and the store is ever increasing, both by propagation and by the addition of other weeds torn from the shores of Florida and the Bahama Islands by the force of the Gulf stream, so that the meadow grows more compact and at the center extends to a considerable depth beneath the surface.

Not is this all; for at least two thirds of all the infinite botany and zoology which the Gulf stream carries along with it in its course sover the sea finds a resting-place in the Sargasso Sea. Here may be seen huge trunks of trees torn from the forests of Brazil by the waters of the Amazon and floated down far out to sea until they were caught and swept along by the current; logwood from Honduras; orange trees from Florida; canoes and boats from the islands, staved in, broken, and bottom upward; wrecks and remains of all sorts, gathered from the rich harvest of the Atlantic; whole keels or skeletons of ruined ships so covered with barnacles, shells and weed that the original outline is entirely lost to view; and here and there a derelict ship, transformed from a floating terror of the deep into a mystery put out of reach of man in a museum of unexplained enigmas.

It is only natural that ships should carefully avoid this marine rubbish heap, where the Atlantic shoots its refuse. It seems doubtful whether a sailing vessel would be able to cut her way into the thick network of weed even with a strong wind behind her. With regard to a steamer, no prudent skipper is ever likely to make the attempt, for it would certainly not be long before the tangling weed would altogether choke up his screw and render it useless. The most energetic explorer of land or sea will find himself baffled with regard to the Sargasso Sea by the fact that it is neither one nor the other. It is neither solid enough to walk upon nor liquid enough to afford a passage to a boat. At the same time anyone who fell into it would certainly be drowned without being able to swim for his life.

There is no possibility of the existence of any but marine life in this strange morass unless the seabirds have built their nests in the masts or hull of some derelict vessel.

### Two Kind of Pies.

There is a certain class of restaurants, very numerous in the lower part of New York and on the avenues, where the bills of fare announce: "Pies all kinds, 5c; home-made pies, 10c." The name "home-made pies" is supposed to be very attractive to people whose taste is offended by the machine-made pie turned out by the bake shops, and who have memories of the pies their mothers used to make. In serving the pies the experienced waiter rarely asks a man what kind he will have. He simply sits up his customer, and decides how much money he wants to spend on his luncheon, and brings the 5c or 10c pie accordingly.

But the name "home-made pie" is only a name. Both kinds of pie are made by the same factory, composed of the same materials, flavored with the same spices and baked in the same oven. The only difference is that the so-called "home-made" is bigger than the other. There are a great many bakeries in New York that furnish pies to restaurants, but the greater mass of the pies eaten in New York restaurants are made by two big pie factories. They make pies, and nothing else, and employ big crews. These two factories manufacture more pies than all the small bakeries in town put together. Only a few of the high-priced restaurants bake their own pies. —New York Mail and Express.

### It Was a Dangerous Toy.

The fascination which a snake exercised over Nellie, the 3-year-old daughter, of Mrs. Fogarty, of Camden, N. J., was almost paid for by her life the other day. The child was playing happily in the yard in the afternoon, while the mother was busied with her household duties. For a while the little one enjoyed her innocent adventures with tarries, with elf men and brownies, conjured up by her child-mind, but in the midst of these fancies there came wriggling across the yard a serpent, a sand viper. Nellie ran after the snake for a time, and then, desiring closer acquaintance, picked it up in her little hands and began to pet it. The serpent squirmed and wriggled, and the child tried by soothing words and caresses to soothe it into quietude. So well did she succeed that in a burst of admiration for her pupil's docility, she put the ugly monster to her mouth, intending to kiss it. Then the viper's cunning unmasked itself. Two little fangs shot out, they pierced the child's lips, and the serpent held fast. Attracted by the child's screams the mother came and killed the snake and by hard work the physicians saved the little one's life.

### How They Learn Embalming.

Undertakers in preparing for their profession have to go through a systematic instruction in embalming. The regular course of the groomsome art covers a period of two years. Lectures are given on anatomy and circulation and a special study is made of the arterial system. After this comes the practical demonstration by actual work on corpses procured specially for the school room through permission of the anatomical society. The course of study also embraces the very important instruction on the care of the embalmer herself. Certain precautions must be taken. In preparing the body of the dead for embalming gloves are worn by the embalmer. Usually the bare hands are used in the actual act of embalming, but they have been previously rubbed with a medicated salve. After the hands have been washed an ointment must be rubbed in to prevent any possibility of blood poisoning.

### Western Phenomena.

In the Western deserts a spot of ground becomes excessively heated, causing the air above to descend. This produces an influx of the atmosphere from all sides, but unequally, the result being a gyratory motion and a sandstorm.

## NO USE FOR FIRE ENGINES.

A Scientist Who Would Extinguish Flames with Gas.

T. H. Norton, of Cincinnati, Ohio, claims to have discovered a new method of extinguishing flames, whereby fire engines will be of no more use, gas taking the place of water. He expounded his theory at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the other day, and his suggestions have already caused quite a stir among insurance men. Chemists said Mr. Norton will soon supplant the fire engine and the hook-and-ladder truck, which cost the people of the United States many millions of dollars every year. Throwing streams of water upon burning buildings, thereby adding to the loss by flames the sometimes greater loss by water, seems to Mr. Norton to be ridiculous, as it is wholly unnecessary. Carbon dioxide, he thinks, could be made to take the place of all other means of extinguishing flames. His system would be the piping of all buildings in such a manner that the gas could be liberated freely in any room where flames existed. Nothing can burn in carbon dioxide, yet the gas is harmless and inert and would cause no loss.

Insurance men are inclined to ridicule the idea. It is an old scheme of scientists, they say, and Mr. Norton is entitled to no credit as a discoverer. Ten years ago a Frenchman devised a plan which he declared would make fire apparatus and insurance companies unnecessary, but France has continued to use the more reliable fire engines and extinguishers notwithstanding. Considerable doubt is expressed as to the harmlessness of the gas, and it is even asserted that the damage it would do to the contents of buildings would be greater than that of water.

### Adapted to the Climate.

Rice paper making may yet become an industry in the United States. The rice paper tree, one of the most interesting of the entire flora of China, has recently been successfully experimented with in Florida, where it now flourishes with other subtropical and Oriental species of trees and shrubs. When first transplanted in American soil the experimenters expressed doubts of its hardiness, fearing that it would be unable to stand the winters. All these fears have vanished, however, and it is now the universal opinion that it is well adapted to the climate of this country. It is a small tree, growing to a height of less than fifteen feet, and with a trunk or stem from three to five inches in diameter. Its canes, which vary in color according to season, are large, soft and downy, the form somewhat resembling that noticed in those of the castor-bean plant. The celebrated rice paper, the product of this queer tree, is formed of thin slices of the pith, which is taken from the body of the tree in beautiful cylinders several inches in length. These are pressed until the surface is rendered uniformly smooth throughout its entire length. Chinese workmen are very dexterous in the preparation of this paper, as they seem to be in everything they undertake. But they work entirely "by hand"—a method too slow for the hustling American. If rice paper making becomes practicable, no doubt machinery will be invented to do the work required.

## POPULAR SCIENCE.

THE highest mountain in the world is the old-established Everest in the Himalayas. Mt. Hercules in New Guinea shrunk a good deal after it was measured.

It is computed that every year the earth receives about 146,000,000,000 shooting stars which fall on its surface and thus slowly increase its mass.

PROF. ASA GRAY says that the Washington Elm at Cambridge has been estimated to produce seven million leaves, which would make a surface radiation of about five acres in extent, and give out every fair day in the growing season seven and three-fourths tons of moisture.

It is not likely that earthquakes ever result from electric disturbances, and it is not yet proved that they give rise to any such, though when large masses of rock are displaced, as in Japan in 1891, slight local changes in magnetic curves have resulted.

It is a well-known fact that on account of the superficial position of the blood vessels at ankles and wrists the blood in cold weather is easily chilled at those points. For the same reason in warm weather one ought to keep these localities as lightly covered as possible. This is the case with regard to the wrists, but ninety-nine men out of a hundred have thick leather coverings high over the ankles, and the shoekeepers say that so few low shoes are called for that it is often difficult to fit satisfactorily a customer who does demand them.

**JOHN S. BENDER,**  
**Attorney at Law,**  
PLYMOUTH, IND.

Office over Shemaker's Restaurant.  
Will promptly attend to all business entrusted to him in the line of his profession.

**WM. O'KEEFE,**

**LUMBER YARD.**

Lumber, Lath, Shingles,

Sash, Doors and Blinds,

Flooring, Patent Lath,

Fence Posts and Fence

Lath.

Door and Window Frames a Specialty.

**Furniture** - -

IS ALWAYS A MOST

**Useful Present**

Before my SPECIAL DISPLAY of artistic and serviceable Furniture. I can furnish a house from

**TOP TO BOTTOM**

at prices to suit the times.

**Upholstering and Repairing**

of all kinds executed promptly. Call up Telephone No. 33 for night and Sunday calls for

**UNDERTAKING.**

**J. C. Bunnell**

**Useful Gifts**

FOR YOUNG AND OLD

**Books! Books! Books!**

Standard works, bound in cloth and gold, 25c.

The finest line ever seen in Plymouth.

**CHILDREN'S TOY BOOKS** from 5 to 25c.

**BIBLES** cheaper than the Bible Society can sell them, and the greatest selection of popular Toys, Dolls, Etc., in this county.

**W. M. KENDALL.**

**We Justly Claim**

To have the Most Important Stock of

**Men's, Boys' and Children's**

**Clothing**  
—AND—  
**Furnishing Goods**

**In Marshall County.**

Everybody is not supposed to be experts in judging the value of Clothing and are sometimes misled by the wily, walk-in-my-parlor sort of advertisers. *We fool nobody, we simply state what we believe to be a fact:* That we are selling better clothes than other stores, and for the same and less money, and that it is to your interests to do business with us. *We are now showing* an immense line of goods for useful

**HOLIDAY PRESENTS.**

<b>FINE LINE</b>	Electric Seal Caps.	Collars and Cuffs.
	Silk Handkerchiefs.	Neckwear.
	Linen Handkerchiefs.	Silk Mufflers.
	Cape & Box Macintoshes	Dress Gloves.
	Silk Umbrellas.	Dress Shirts.
	Soft and Stiff Hats.	Silk Suspenders.
	Silk Vests.	Hosiery and Underwear.

And everything for Men, Boys and Children at prices below competition. Call in and see

**M. Lauer & Son,**  
**ONE PRICE OUTFITTERS.**

**We are Overstocked**

—WITH—

**STOVES**

OF ALL KINDS.

**THEY MUST GO**

WITH THE NEXT MONTH.

**You May NEED ONE This Winter.**

**CALL AND SEE THEM.**

**J. V. Astley & Son,**

**PLYMOUTH.**